

# AJ Aims

The AJ aim is crucial to a successful Adventurous Journey (Expedition or Exploration). The Aim challenges young people to engage with their environment and as such, the aim must relate to the chosen AJ area. Similar to the other sections of the Award, a well-chosen Aim will enable participants to benefit most from this type of experiential learning based on Kolb's cycle (Plan-Do-Review, in short). Participants choose and work on their Aim as a team: they prepare as a team before they go, they test how 'SMART' their Aim is during their Practice Journey and, finally, they present the results after their qualifying journey in any way they choose (e.g. poster presentation, photographs, drama, a song, a multimedia presentation, etc.).

## Aim Time Allocation: Exploration vs. Expedition

Time division	Bronze (6 hours per day)	Silver (7 hours per day)	Gold (8 hours per day)
<b>Exploration:</b> 1/3 on Journey 2/3 on Aim	- 2 hours Journey - 4 hours Aim	- 2h20min Journey - 4h40min Aim	- 2h40min Journey - 5h20min Aim
<b>Expedition:</b> 2/3 on Journey 1/3 on Aim	- 4 hours Journey - 2 hours Aim	- 4h40min Journey - 2h20min Aim	- 5h20min Journey - 2h40min Aim

## Aim Examples: By Category

### Science (Biology, Chemistry, Physics)

#### Hiking Exploration in the Oman mountains

**Aim:** To study the different types of vegetation at different altitudes and different environments.

**Preparation:** Collect pictures of flowers, bushes, trees and herbs with notes on where they can be found (e.g. different types of flowers in valleys vs. higher rocks, etc.); prepare tick list of most important species.

**During the journey:** Take pictures of vegetation compared with prepared notes, tick species off the prepared list, mark any unexpected things on the map.

**Review:** Check tick list and compare the photos taken in certain places to prepared collection

**Presentation:** A video of different areas: valleys, oasis, desert and rocks higher up with pictures of the vegetation found on the right poster with short presentation on what was found where and why.

#### Kayaking Expedition in New Hampshire

**Aim:** To test the water quality at various points throughout the Saco River.

**Preparation:** Ask science teacher to explain about what you expect in different samples and how to collect and preserve the samples.

**During the journey:** Collect sample tubes in different places, take a picture and mark places of collection on the map

**Review:** Test the tubes and analyze findings (with help from science teacher)

**Presentation:** Show a map that indicates the water quality in different areas. Discuss methodology and what other things were found in the water samples.

### Geography/History/Social Science/Architecture

#### Cycling Exploration in Scarbro, WV

**Aim:** To investigate the mining industry in the region

**Preparation:** Research the various mining sites within the town and wilderness, what impacts they've had on the community, now and in the past. What types of buildings, equipment, etc. do you anticipate seeing.

**During the journey:** Cycle to different sites and collect information on the history, take photographs of items that indicate specific companies, purposes of use, etc.

**Review:** Make a collage of information leaflets, buildings, maps, impacts and photographs taken on each site

**Presentation:** Talk about each poster collage.

### Hiking Expedition in the Belgian Ardennes

**Aim:** To explore and map the places that show the rich geological history of the Ardennes.

**Preparation:** Learn about geological history and how to recognize different bits (i.e. woods vs. marshlands, geologically late steep valleys vs. geologically old broad hills, different types of rocks associated with different geological eras), compare this to the Exploration route.

**During the journey:** Take photographs of the different features and mark them on the route

**Review:** Compare photographs to what you hoped to find and try and explain why these geological features were found on that part of your route.

**Presentation:** Power Point presentation with a brief geological history of the area matched with photos that were taken during the journey

## Environment

### Horseback riding Exploration in Yellowstone National Park

**Aim:** To explore the options and create a brochure for a 'Green Holiday Tour' in the National Park

**Preparation:** Research and brainstorm about ecologically friendly holiday options

**During the journey:** Explore specific areas for 'green campsites' and ecologically friendly outdoor activities, take pictures and keep timings on the map

**Review:** Look at all photographs and collected information and create a brochure for a 7-day ecologically friendly holiday in the park with a map with suggested routes, campsites and activities

**Presentation:** Print and present the holiday brochures during a parents' evening, or to your Assessors.

### Kayaking Expedition in along the Delaware River

**Aim:** To investigate and map washed up waste, potential pollution sites and other forms of pollution on shorelines.

**Preparation:** Plan a route in such a way there are many opportunities to come close to the shore and/or investigate other types of pollution.

**During the journey:** Take pictures and map different types of waste materials, clean areas wherever possible

**Review:** Map highly polluted areas on the map and think of ways to counteract the effects on the environment.

**Presentation:** A sideshow with photos of different polluted areas and recommendation on how to keep it clean.

## Language

### Hiking Exploration in South America

**Aim:** To investigate the use of different languages in rural areas in South America

**Preparation:** Research which languages/language variations are spoken in the Exploration area and learn how to make good quality video recordings.

**During the journey:** Interview people from different communities and ask them which languages they speak in which setting (e.g. Rural use of Nahuatl in Mexican communities/ with family, Spanish when they go into metro areas, etc.)

**Review:** Prepare and cut the video footage and add captions on locations and languages

**Presentation:** Show the video at the Award presentation

### Cycling Expedition from Buffalo to New York City (Empire State Trail)

**Aim:** To investigate differences between the two cities and the rural subcultures in-between and what effects that.

**Preparation:** Plan the route to go through various small town. Learn how to make quality video recordings. Identify a few subcultures within the route (i.e. farming/agriculture, mining, other)

**During the journey:** Ask people from various towns what the main source of work is in that area, how long they've lived there and what they love the most about the area. Record these and mark them on the map.

**Review:** Prepare and cut the video footage and indicate the subculture features/characteristics in the recordings.

**Presentation:** Show the video at a regional conference or local event.